

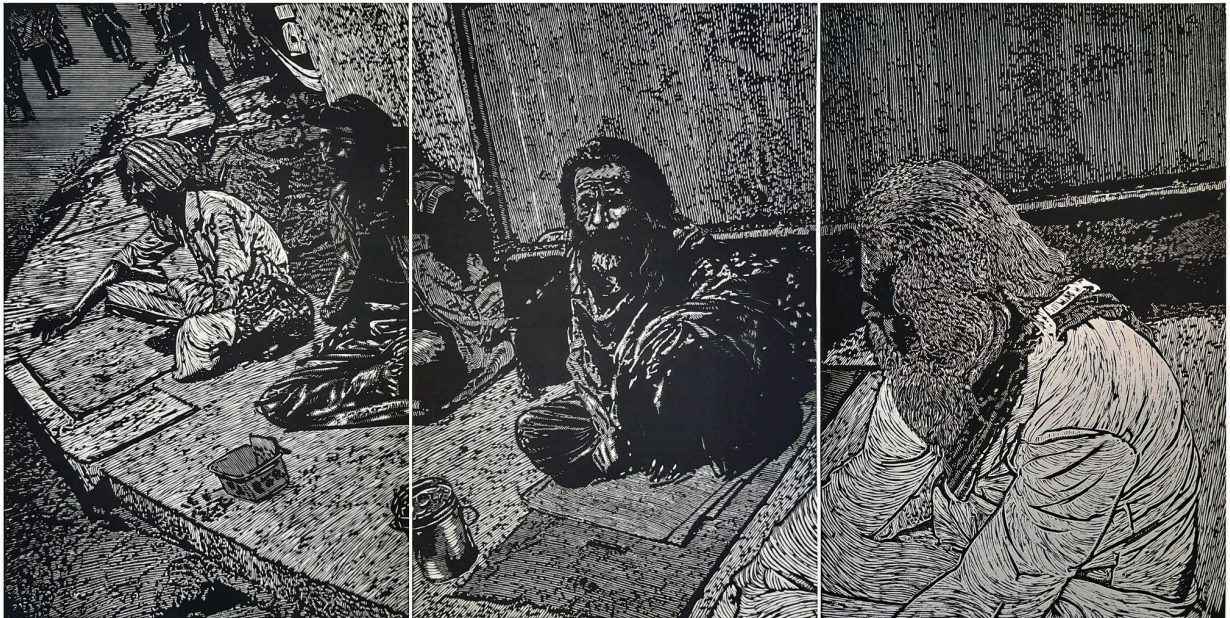
LATITUDE 28

BHAVNA KAKAR
PRESENTS

ELSEWHERE IN NORTHEAST INDIA

A solo show by Chandan Bez Baruah

Curated by Waswo X. Waswo



Artist: Chandan Bez Baruah, Me: Woodcut, Size 3/6 feet, Se: Somewhere in Northeast India, p-iii. Year: 2022 Dec.

Opening on : 12th August 2024

Venue : Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi

“The landscape belongs to the person who looks at it.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.” – Claude Monet

Bhavna Kakar presents 'Elsewhere In Northeast India', curated by Waswo X. Waswo, a solo show by Chandan Bez Baruah at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam.

Chandan Bez Baruah's "Elsewhere in Northeast India" reveals the stark, mountainous undergrowth of Assam through the lens of history, culture, and contemporary conflict. His art, coaxed from wooden boards, evokes an intimate journey through the jungle, inviting us to silently observe the beauty and significance of his most treasured haunts. Through Chandan's eyes, we experience the forest as a young man who has shared moments with soldiers and nature alike, deeply connecting with the landscape.

Born in Nagaon and later moving to Guwahati, Chandan found solace in the forests, escaping the urban congestion. His works, meticulously carved on medium-density wood-fibre matrices from digital photographs, showcase his astounding hand-craftsmanship. The photorealist style he employs is complicated by the chaotic beauty of the scenes, diverging from traditional orderly compositions.

"Elsewhere in Northeast India" invites viewers to witness the hidden wonders of nature through Chandan's intricate woodcuts. This exhibition calls for quiet contemplation, encouraging an appreciation of the delicate interplay between nature and human experience.

Curator's Note

With this new body of work, and this new exhibition, Chandan wants to speak to us through his eyes rather than his ears. His wondrously elaborate renditions of Northeast landscapes are still a main subject, but intrusions have crept in: shacks, bulldozers, unfinished construction, trucks collecting garbage, and chain-link fence. People, too, make a first appearance in Chandan's oeuvre; representatives of the marginalized. This is not only an expansion of subject matter, but also the maturing of an artist, whose draftsmanship, technical skills, and hard work were never in question. Now, his visualizations powerfully lay claim to a more deeply aware social and aesthetic ground.

Chandan's works still seduce us with the sublime, but he has now both opened his ears and expanded his eyes. He has also opened his talents and refined them. There is beauty here and also ugliness, made present via exquisitely crafted woodcuts. Are they in harmony with one another? Chandan Bez Baruah asks us to consider this deeply and find the truth within.

Waswo X. Waswo, Curator

“Chandan’s ability to translate the chaotic beauty of Assam’s undergrowth into meticulously detailed woodcuts is truly remarkable. His work not only showcases his extraordinary craftsmanship but also his deep connection with the land and its history. By presenting these scenes through his eyes, we are given the opportunity to experience the serenity, the conflict, and the rich cultural tapestry of Northeast India in a way that is both immersive and enlightening.

This exhibition is a testament to Chandan’s talent and his unique vision. We invite art enthusiasts and nature lovers alike to join us at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, to witness the profound beauty of ‘Elsewhere in Northeast India’ and to engage with the silent revelations that Chandan so eloquently presents through his art.”

- **Bhavna Kakar, Founder-Director, LATITUDE 28**

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chandan Bez Baruah (b.1979) did his BFA in Printmaking from Government Art College Guwahati, Assam, and MFA in Printmaking from Visva-Bharati University Santiniketan, West Bengal. Some of his exhibitions include ‘TIME WARP – an exploration of the unusual’, at Gallery Veda, Chennai (2021). ‘The Print: Matter in Matrix’, Gallery Latitude 28 at Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi (2020); 1st Print Biennale India, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2018); ‘On the Threshold of Time’, Art Heritage Gallery, New Delhi (2017); 56th National Exhibition of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2017); 10th Triennial Print Exhibition, France (2016); Daejeon International Art Show, Korea (2015); 9th Triennial Print Exhibition, France (2014); International ICAC Printmaking Show, Mumbai (2014); Kyoto International Wood Print Exhibition (KIWA), Japan (2014 and 2013); 7th Bharat Bhavan International Biennial of Print, India (2011); 49th National Exhibition of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, Bhopal (2006). Chandan Bez Baruah is more sensitively working on the postmodern approach of landscape. His work ‘Somewhere in North East India’ is a significant continuum of series, and a short take on his visual cultural practice in a confined and comprehensive manner. His references for the woodcut prints are his digital photographs. His attachment to the Northeast landscapes is used during the image making process. While using the curving tools he always goes through his experiences and this creates a peculiar attachment between the particular frame and him. It is here that the works open to emotional interpretation and atmospheric transformation on the wooden surface using wood carving tools or one can say through his expressions and visualisation.

ABOUT LATITUDE 28

Since 2010, LATITUDE 28 has probed into a gallery practice that is lateral, disruptive and avant-garde. Mentoring and nurturing emerging artists from South Asia, the gallery focuses on experimentation with medium and material fostering critical dialogue, perspective and practices by writers, critics and researchers alike. These maker-market relationships amongst collectors, art enthusiasts and art practitioners have grown through the gallery's interactive incubation space, where ideas have been generated through innovative curatorial projects located on the cusp of art history and socio-political context through site-specific artworks and artist talks. The gallery makes art accessible and inclusive with exhibitions located at the intersection of artists, institutions and art education. LATITUDE 28's vision is shaped by its Founder/Director, Bhavna Kakar, who is also the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of TAKE on Art - South Asia's leading contemporary art publication.

FOR MEDIA QUERIES

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FACTSHEET

Title: Elsewhere in Northeast India

Date: 12th August 2024

Participating Artist: Solo show by Chandan Bez Baruah

Curated by: Waswo X. Waswo

Venue: Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi

On View Till : 20th August at Shridharani Gallery

Continues : 25th August onwards at Latitude 28

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

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